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Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

November 21, 2005

Mike McElligott
Chief, Restoration Program
30th CES/CEVR
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APPROVAL OF FINAL INTERIM REMEDIAL ACTION WORKPLAN FOR AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) - 170, VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. McElligott:

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) have reviewed the subject document dated November 2005 which was prepared by Montgomery Watson Harza on behalf of Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). The Building 488 (AOC - 170) together with Buildings 488, 484, and 490 comprised the General Electric Radio Tracking Station (GERTS) for the Atlas weapons system and space boosters. A fire damaged the north wing of Building 488 on December 29, 1999 and a portion of the roof and interior flooring were destroyed. The Final Interim Remedial Action (IRA) Workplan evaluates the removal action alternatives and documents the Air Force's selected remedy for the removal of remaining contaminated soil at AOC - 170 to prevent contact with contaminated soil and potential surface water runoff from the site.

Soil contaminated with PCBs, metals, semi-volatile organics compounds, total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH), and dioxins/furans above residential soil Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) and/or Background Threshold Values (BTVs) will be removed from the site. The depth of the excavation is approximately one to three feet below ground surface. An estimated 2,240 tons of contaminated soil will be removed from the site. Additionally, an estimated 761 tons of non-hazardous concrete rubble will be removed from the area. After removal of contaminated soil, the excavation will be backfilled with clean soil to restore the site to its original condition. Twenty-three confirmation sampling points will be used to confirm that contaminated soils have been removed and that site-specific cleanup goals have been achieved.

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A Fact Sheet providing key information from the draft IRA Workplan and notice of a public review period was mailed on September 29, 2005. A public notice announcing the comment period was also published in the Lompoc Record Newspaper and Santa Maria Times on October 2, 2005. The 30-day comment period started on October 2, 2005 and ended on November 1, 2005. No comments were received during the public comment period and the draft final RAW becomes the final approved document.

DTSC and RWQCB are satisfied that their comments on the draft document have been adequately addressed and hereby approve the final IRA Workplan as written.

We look forward to working with you to expedite the investigation and cleanup of the sites at Vandenberg Air Force Base. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Quang Than of DTSC at (714) 484-5352 or Ms. Carol Kolb of RWQCB at (805) 542-4625.

Sincerely,



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